

Reply to Office Action dated September 15, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-27 are pending in the application. By this Amendment claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 14-15, 17 and 19-20 are amended, claims 2-3 and 12-13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 21-27 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As claims 3-10 and 13-20 were not rejected over prior art, it has been assumed for the purposes of this reply that these claims contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the allowable features of claims 3 and 13 have been added to independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, along with the features of intervening claims 2 and 12. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and 11 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 4-10 and 14-20, which depend respectively therefrom. Claims 14 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form as new independent claims 21 and 26, respectively, and thus should also be in condition for allowance, along with claims 22-25 and 27, which depend respectively therefrom.

The Office Action objected to the disclosure for informalities. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending independent claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner's comments have been

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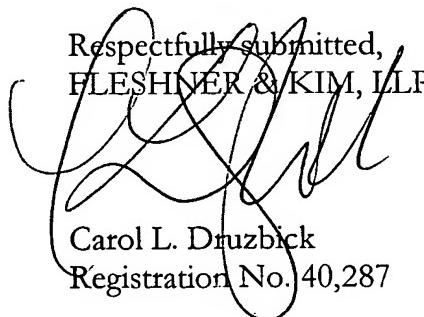
addressed in amending independent claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over White, U.S. Patent No. 3,603,631. The rejection is moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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